

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 29, 2008. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 15 are in the application, of which Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 15 has been newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to because the drawings include the following reference characters allegedly not described in the corresponding brief description: 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, Ga, Gb, Gc, etc. The objection is respectfully traversed.

The reference characters 11, 12, 14, and 15 are described at pages 36 and 37 of the application, and the reference characters Ga, Gb, Gc, etc. are described at page 106 of the application. The specification has been amended to include a description for reference characters 21 and 22. In this regard, there is no requirement that the reference characters appear in a particular part of the specification, so long as they are adequately described. See 37 CFR 1.84(p).

A replacement drawing sheet is being submitted herewith to attend to a formal matter in Fig. 4. In particular, Ga, Gb, Gc, etc. have been amended to read Ha, Hb, Hc, etc.

Objections were lodged against Claims 9 and 10. The objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendments made herein.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Analytical

Biochemistry, vol. 180, 1989, pp. 1-10 (Coletti-Previero). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0106702 (Wagner). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, (i) preparing a substrate having a surface at least part of which contains aluminum oxide, (ii) preparing a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 30 and having an ability to bind to the aluminum oxide, and (iii) bringing the protein into contact with the surface of the substrate to obtain the structure which comprises the protein and the substrate.

Neither Coletti-Previero nor Wagner is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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